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Agricultural Situation

New President for National Farmers' Union

2004

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Report Highlights:

Tim Bennett, a farmer from Wales, has been elected as President of the National Farmers' Union following the retirement of Sir Ben Gill.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
London [UK1]
[UK]

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) held its Annual General Meeting on 02/16/04 and 02/17/04. The annual conference marked the retirement of Sir Ben Gill, who had been President of the NFU for six years. His successor, Tim Bennett, was voted in at the close of the conference.

The NFU is the largest farming organization in the UK, representing around three quarters of the full time commercial farmers of England and Wales. Other smaller organizations representing farmers in the UK include the Scottish NFU, The Farmers' Union of Wales, The Ulster Farmers' Union, the Tenant Farmers' Association and the Country Landowners Association.

The new President, Tim Bennett, is owner-occupier of a 200 acre grassland farm in Carmarthen, Wales. Until July 2003, the farm had a 70-cow pedigree Holstein/Friesian dairy herd. Presently a beef suckler herd and rearing enterprise is being established in conjunction with dairy heifers being reared for sale.

Tim Bennett was born in July 1953 and was brought up in the West Midlands. He attended Halesowen Grammar School, Worcestershire, and Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot, Devon. After leaving college, he worked in France and then in Herefordshire before moving to South Wales in 1978 to farm in partnership with his wife.

He was NFU Deputy President for six years until his election as President. His NFU career also includes time spent as County Chairman of Carmarthenshire, 1988; Vice Chairman of the Marginal Lands Committee, 1990; Vice Chairman of the Less Favoured Areas Committee, 1991 and Chairman of the Less Favoured Areas Committee from 1993 to 1998. He has also served on the NFU's Livestock Committee and the Finance and Organisation Committee. Currently, Tim sits on the NFU Council and is Chairman of NFU Policy Board.

Peter Kendall, 43, a cereal farmer from East Bedfordshire becomes Deputy President. Educated in agricultural economics at Nottingham University, Peter returned to the family business in 1984. Peter has been actively involved in the arable industry as a past director of the Arable Research Centre and former member of the Home Grown Cereals Authority's ((HGCA) British Cereal Exports and Crop Marketing advisory boards. Joining the NFU Council and Cereals Committee in 1999, Peter became committee vice-chairman in 2002 and chairman in 2003.